



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

1315 W. 4th Avenue • Kennewick, Washington 99336-6018 • (509) 735-7581

June 22, 1999

Mr. David Templeton
U.S. Department of Energy
P.O. Box 550, MSIN: L1-08
Richland, Washington 99352

Dear Mr. Templeton:

Re: Waste Designation of the Grouted Waste Containers in 324 Facility B-Cell

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) appreciates the information provided on June 16, 1999, by the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) on its designation of the grouted waste currently stored in the B-Cell complex of the 324 Facility. It is Ecology's understanding that USDOE requested Ecology to review and concur with their designation prior to June 23, 1999, in order to prevent the presence of the grouted waste from negatively impacting progress of the B-Cell cleanout activities. Given the very short response time and the technical complexity of the issue, Ecology is unable to provide concurrence with USDOE's designation at this time. Although this process has been an on-going issue over the last three (3) months, Ecology was not provided sufficient information to support the June 23, 1999, schedule need. Furthermore, in order for Ecology to provide a regulatory designation determination concurrence regarding this waste, more time is necessary for a comprehensive and detailed review of the issue.

However, Ecology would like to remind USDOE that waste designation is a generator responsibility pursuant to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-303-070. Pre-approval of waste designation is not required by Ecology in order for the generator to complete their designation process and move forward to proper storage, treatment, and disposal of their waste. Ecology will, however, provide a review of this designation in the future when it reviews waste management activities in the 324 Facility. Please be advised that all waste stored in the 324 Facility is subject to the requirements of WAC 173-303-070.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Ms. Alisa Huckaby at (509) 736-3034.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alex Stone, 300 Area Project Manager
Nuclear Waste Program

cc: Dave Bartus, EPA
Tom Post, EPA
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Administrative Record: 324 Building File

